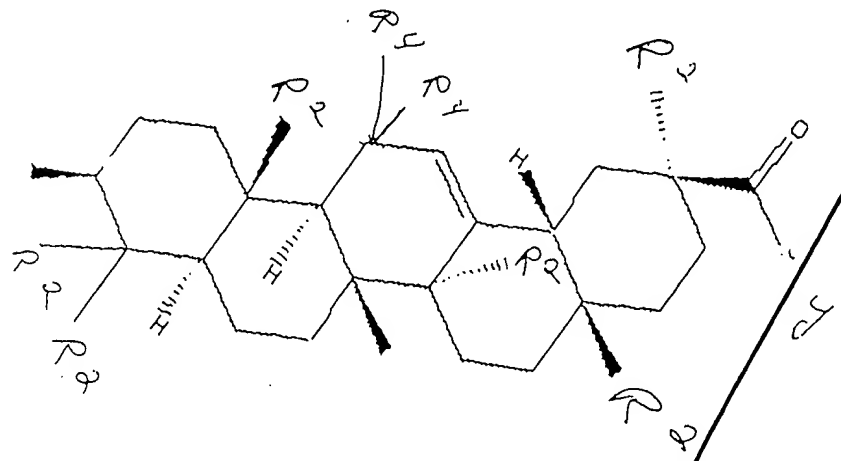
I Claim:

1. A method of treating Kaposi's sarcoma comprising the steps of

administering to the patient a therapeutic a derivative of a triterpenoid acid and wherein the triterpenoid acid has the following structural formula:



wherein:

$Y=OR^1$, $NR^1{}_2$, $O\text{--}M^1$;

R^1 =H, LOWER ALKYL,

M^1 =$Na.^+$, K^+, Mg^{++}, Ca^{++} ions;

R^2 =CH^2OR^1 or CH_3;

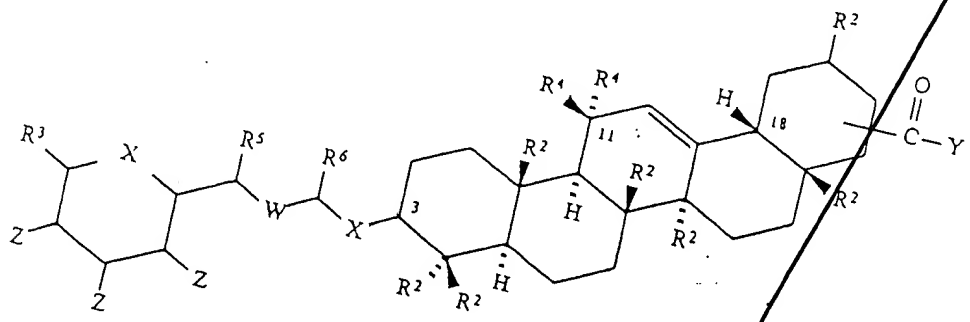
R^4 =H, OH, SO_3 --M^1, $NH(CH_2)_n NH^2$, or $NH\text{--}Ph\text{--}(NH_2)_n$ wherein n=1-8 and Ph is a phenyl or naphthyl ring substituted with up to 3 amine functionalities and the remaining substitutions can be H, R^1, R^2 or CO_2R^1;

or both R^4 taken together are oxo;

X=O,S, $NR^1{}_2$.

2. A method of treating Kaposi's sarcoma comprising the steps of

administering to the patient a derivative of a triterpenoid acid and wherein the triterpenoid acid has the following structural formula:



wherein:

Y=OR^1, $NR^1{}_2$, O--M^1 ;

R^1 =H, LOWER ALKYL,

M^1 =$Na.^+$, K^+, Mg^{++}, Ca^{++} ions;

R^2 =CH^2OR^1 or CH_3 ;

R^3 =H, CH_3, lower alkyl, COY, CH_2 OH, CH_2 OCH_2 CH=CH_2, CH_2 OSO--$_3$ M^1 ;

Z=NR^1, NR^1 Ac, NR^1 Bz, H, OCH_3, lower alkyl, OH, SO_3 --M^1, OCH_2 CH=CH_2, OCH_2 CO_2 H or O-glucoside wherein a glucoside includes glucose, fucose, galactose, mannose, arabinose or xylose;

R^4 =H, OH, SO_3--$M.^1$, $NH(CH_2)_n$ NH^2, or NH--Ph--$(NH_2)_n$ wherein n=1-8 and Ph is a

phenyl or naphthyl ring substituted with up to 3 amine functionalities and the remaining substitutions can be H, R^1, R^2 or $CO_2 R^1$;

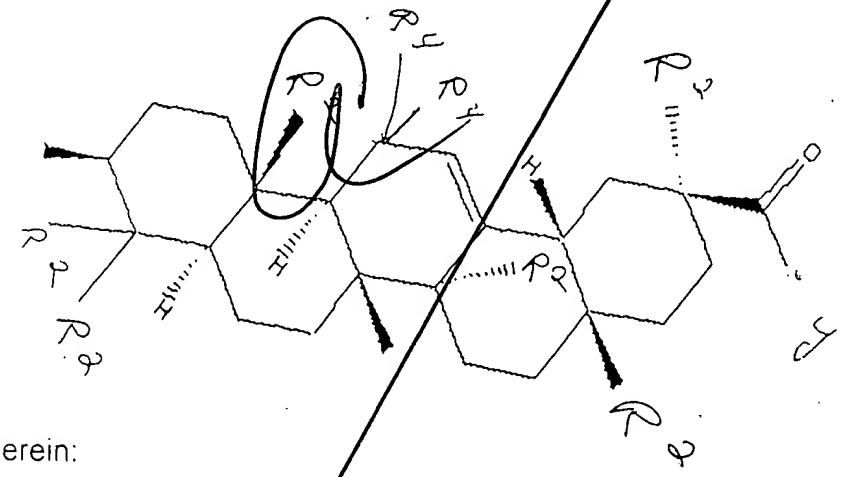
or both R^4 taken together are oxo;

R^5 and R^6 =H, R^1 or taken together to form a 5 or 6 membered carbocyclic ring;

X= O,S, $NR^1{}_2$

W= C=O, $C=CR^1{}_2$, $CR^1 CR^1{}_3$, CR^1 --$CR^1{}_2 OR^1$, COR^1 --$CR^1 OR^1{}_2$, $COR^1 CR^1{}_2 OR^1$, $CR^1 CR^1{}_2 NR^1{}_2$, $CR^1 CR^1{}_2 OCR^1 COY$.

3. A pharmaceutical composition for treating Kaposi's sarcoma, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a triterpenoid acid having the following structural formula:



wherein:

Y=OR^1, $NR^1{}_2$, O--M^1 ;

R^1 =H, LOWER ALKYL,

M^1 =Na^+, K^+, Mg^{++}, Ca^{++} ions;

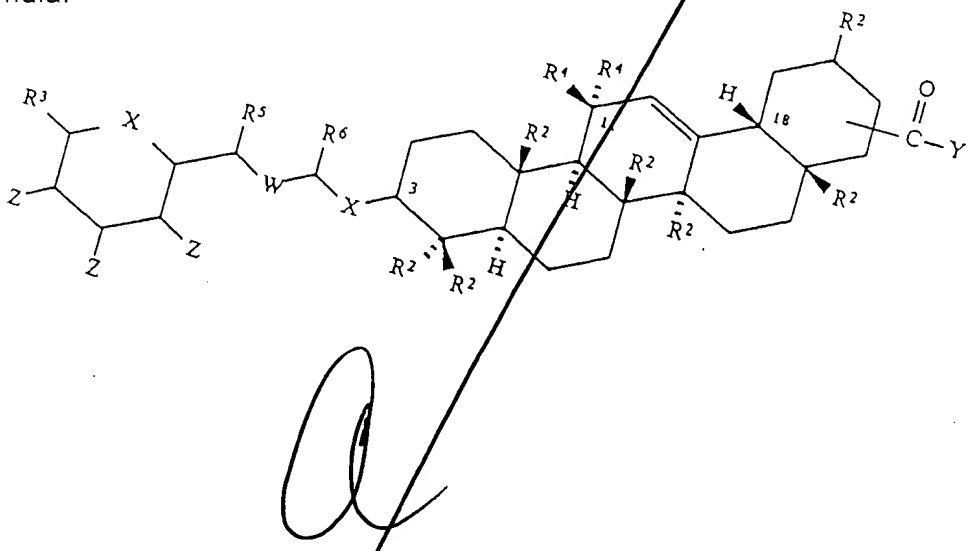
R^2 =$CH^2 OR^1$ or CH_3 ;

R^4 =H, OH, SO_3 --M^1, $NH(CH_2)_n NH^2$, or NH--Ph--$(NH_2)_n$ wherein n=1-8 and Ph is a phenyl or naphthyl ring substituted with up to 3 amine functionalities and the remaining substitutions can be H, R^1, R^2 or $CO_2 R^1$;

or both R^4 taken together are oxo;

X=O,S, NR^1_2.

4. A pharmaceutical composition for treating Kaposi's sarcoma, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a triterpenoid acid having the following structural formula:



wherein:

Y=OR^1, NR^1_2, O–M^1 ;

R^1 =H, LOWER ALKYL,

M^1 =Na^+, K^+, Mg^{++}, Ca^{++} ions;

R^2 =CH^2 OR^1 or CH_3 ;

R^3 =H, CH_3, lower alkyl, COY, CH_2 OH, CH_2 OCH_2 CH=CH_2, CH_2 OSO--$_3$ M^1 ;

Z=NR^1, NR^1 Ac, NR^1 Bz, H, OCH_3, lower alkyl, OH, SO_3 --M^1, OCH_2 CH=CH_2, OCH_2 CO_2 H or O-glucoside wherein a glucoside includes glucose, fucose, galactose, mannose, arabinose or xylose;

R^4 =H, OH, SO_3 --M.^{1}, $NH(CH_2)_n$ NH^2, or NH--Ph--$(NH_2)_n$ wherein n=1-8 and Ph is a phenyl or naphthyl ring substituted with up to 3 amine functionalities and the remaining substitutions can be H, R^1, R^2 or CO_2 R^1 ;

or both R^4 taken together are oxo;

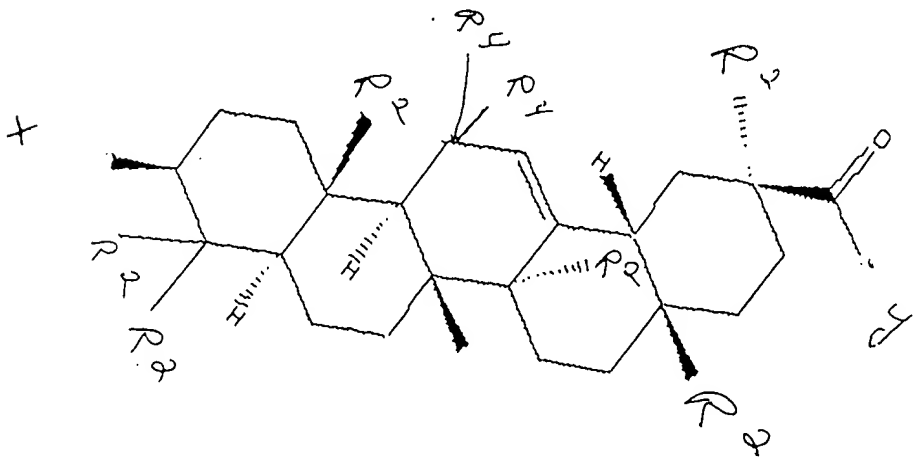
R^5 and R^6 =H,R^1 or taken together to form a 5 or 6 membered carbocyclic ring;

X=O,S, NR^1_2

W=C=O, C=CR^1_2, CR^1 CR^1_3, CR^1 --CR^1_2 OR^1, COR^1 --CR^1 OR^1_2, COR^1 CR^1_2 OR^1, CR^1 CR^1_2 NR^1_2, CR^1 CR^1_2 OCR^1 COY.

5. A method of treating Epstein Barr virus comprising the steps of

administering to the patient a therapeutic a derivative of a triterpenoid acid and wherein the triterpenoid acid has the following structural formula:



wherein:

Y=OR^1, $NR^1{}_2$, O--M^1 ;

R^1 =H, LOWER ALKYL,

M^1 =$Na.^+$, K^+, Mg^{++}, Ca^{++} ions;

R^2 =CH^2OR^1 or CH_3 ;

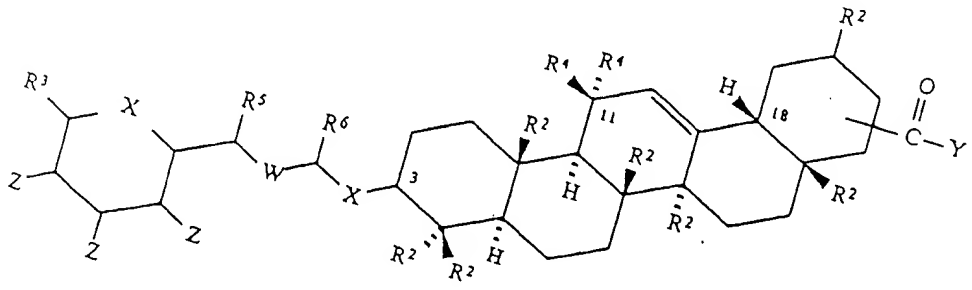
R^4 =H, OH, SO_3 --M^1, $NH(CH_2)_n NH^2$, or NH--Ph--$(NH_2)_n$ wherein n=1-8 and Ph is a phenyl or naphthyl ring substituted with up to 3 amine functionalities and the remaining substitutions can be H, R^1, R^2 or CO_2R^1 ;

or both R^4 taken together are oxo;

X=O,S, $NR^1{}_2$.

6. A method of treating Epstein Barr virus comprising the steps of

administering to the patient a derivative of a triterpenoid acid and wherein the triterpenoid acid has the following structural formula:



wherein:

$Y=OR^1$, $NR^1{}_2$, O--M^1 ;

R^1 =H, LOWER ALKYL,

M^1 =$Na.^+$, K^+, Mg^{++}, Ca^{++} ions;

R^2 =$CH^2 OR^1$ or CH_3 ;

R^3 =H, CH_3, lower alkyl, COY, CH_2 OH, $CH_2 OCH_2 CH=CH_2$, $CH_2 OSO--_3 M^1$;

$Z=NR^1$, NR^1 Ac, NR^1 Bz, H, OCH_3, lower alkyl, OH, SO_3 --M^1, $OCH_2 CH=CH_2$, $OCH_2 CO_2$ H or O-glucoside wherein a glucoside includes glucose, fucose, galactose, mannose, arabinose or xylose;

R^4 =H, OH, SO_3 --$M.^1$, $NH(CH_2)_n NH^2$, or NH--Ph--$(NH_2)_n$ wherein n=1-8 and Ph is a phenyl or naphthyl ring substituted with up to 3 amine functionalities and the remaining substitutions can be H, R^1, R^2 or $CO_2 R^1$;

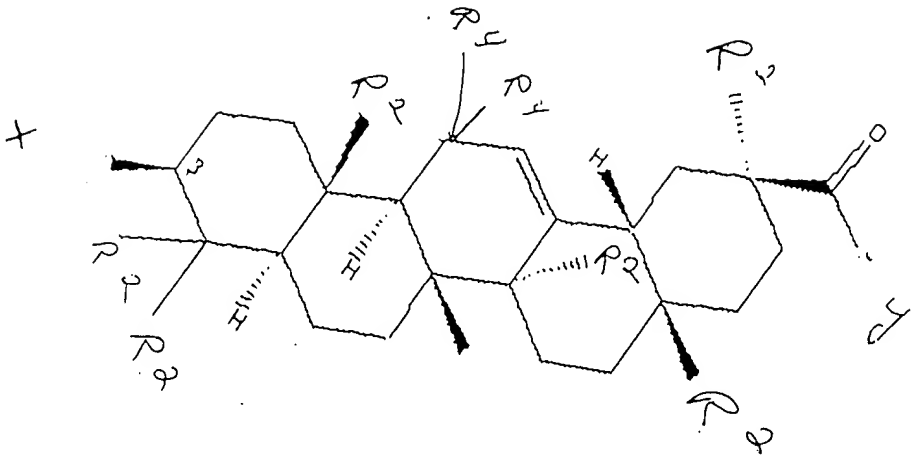
or both R^4 taken together are oxo;

R^5 and R^6 =H, R^1 or taken together to form a 5 or 6 membered carbocyclic ring;

X= O,S, $NR^1{}_2$

W= C=O, $C=CR^1{}_2$, $CR^1 CR^1{}_3$, CR^1 --$CR^1{}_2 OR^1$, COR^1 --$CR^1 OR^1{}_2$, $COR^1 CR^1{}_2 OR^1$, $CR^1 CR^1{}_2 NR^1{}_2$, $CR^1 CR^1{}_2 OCR^1$ COY.

7. A pharmaceutical composition for treating Epstein Barr virus, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a triterpenoid acid having the following structural formula:



wherein:

Y=OR^1, $NR^1{}_2$, O--M^1 ;

R^1 =H, LOWER ALKYL,

M^1 =$Na.^+$, K^+, Mg^{++}, Ca^{++} ions;

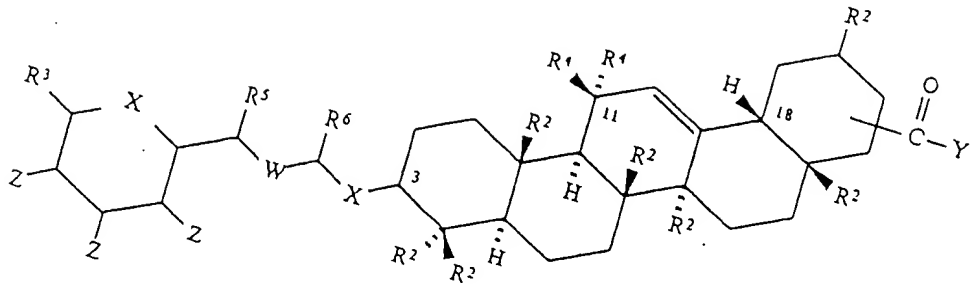
R^2 =CH^2 OR^1 or CH_3 ;

R^4 =H, OH, SO_3 --M^1, $NH(CH_2)_n$ NH^2, or NH--Ph--$(NH_2)_n$ wherein n=1-8 and Ph is a phenyl or naphthyl ring substituted with up to 3 amine functionalities and the remaining substitutions can be H, R^1, R^2 or CO_2 R^1 ;

or both R^4 taken together are oxo;

X=O,S, $NR^1{}_2$.

8. A pharmaceutical composition for treating Epstein Barr virus, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a triterpenoid acid having the following structural formula:



wherein:

Y=OR^1, NR^1_2, O--M^1 ;

R^1 =H, LOWER ALKYL,

M^1 =$Na.^+$, K^+, Mg^{++}, Ca^{++} ions;

R^2 =$CH^2 OR^1$ or CH_3 ;

R^3 =H, CH_3, lower alkyl, COY, CH_2 OH, $CH_2 OCH_2 CH{=}CH_2$, $CH_2 OSO{-}{-}_3 M^1$;

Z=NR^1, NR^1 Ac, NR^1 Bz, H, OCH_3, lower alkyl, OH, SO_3 --M^1, $OCH_2 CH{=}CH_2$, $OCH_2 CO_2$ H or O-glucoside wherein a glucoside includes glucose, fucose, galactose, mannose, arabinose or xylose;

R^4 =H, OH, SO_3 --$M.^1$, $NH(CH_2)_n NH^2$, or NH--Ph--$(NH_2)_n$ wherein n=1-8 and Ph is a phenyl or naphthyl ring substituted with up to 3 amine functionalities and the remaining substitutions can be H, R^1, R^2 or $CO_2 R^1$;

or both R^4 taken together are oxo;

R^5 and R^6 =H,R^1 or taken together to form a 5 or 6 membered carbocyclic ring;

$X = O, S, NR^1{}_2$

$W = C{=}O, C{=}CR^1{}_2, CR^1CR^1{}_3, CR^1\text{--}CR^1{}_2OR^1, COR^1\text{--}CR^1OR^1{}_2, COR^1CR^1{}_2OR^1,$

$CR^1CR^1{}_2NR^1{}_2, CR^1CR^1{}_2OCR^1COY.$

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein the dosage is in the range of 2.5 mg to 50 mg/kg.

10. The method according to claim 5 wherein the dosage is in the range of 2.5 mg to 50 mg/kg.